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10/619,398	07/15/2003	Johannes Hendrikus van Lith	VAND10	7671

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EXAMINER	
CHARLES, MARCUS	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 10/619,398
Filing Date: July 15, 2003
Appellant(s): VAN LITH ET AL.

MAILED

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GROUP 3600

Troutman Sanders LLP
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 8-13-2007 appealing from the Office action mailed 11-28-2006.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

JP 63-280946	Natsushiro et al.	11-1988
6,110,065	Yagasaki et al.	8-2000

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-2 and 19-20 are properly rejected under 35 USC 102 (a) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 63-280946 to Natsushiro et al. Claims 5-18 are properly rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Natsushiro et al. and claims 3-4 are properly rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Natsushiro et al. in view of US Patent No. 6,110,065 to Yagasaki et al.

In fig. 1 of Natsushiro et al. clearly shows that the transitional region has two different curvatures. One of ordinary skill in the art would distinguish the two different radii. Irrespective of the scale of the drawing, it can be clearly seen that a transition region between 2d and 2b exist. As can be see, there is a small radius as illustrated, joining a larger radius 2d and the pulley contact surface 2b.

(10) Response to Argument

Applicant contended that Natsushiro et al. the fails to disclose the transition surface having two different radii and that due to the scale of the figures, the two different radii cannot be discerned. In response, it should be noted that fig. 1 of Natsushiro et al. clearly shows that the transitional region has two different curvatures. One of ordinary skill in the art would distinguish the two different radii. Irrespective of the scale of the drawing, it can be clearly seen that a transition region between 2d and 2b exist. There is a small radius as illustrated, joining a larger radius (see fig. 4. The

larger radius joins the supporting surface (2d) while the smaller radius joins the pulley-contacting surface (2b).

Applicant also contended that the examiner misinterpreted the figures in that the radius designated by the examiner as the larger radius is actually part of the supporting surface and not a transition region. In response, as recited in claim 1, "wherein a first curvature of a first part at a side of the supporting surface is larger than a second part at a side of the pulley sheave. As can be seen the claim did not differentiate in shape or structure, the difference between the supporting surface and the transition region. The claim clearly states that the first radius is a part of the supporting surface and is located at a side thereof. Therefore, the transition region starts from one side of the supporting surface and is part of the supporting surface as designated by the examiner.

Regarding arguments relating to the size of the drawing, it should be noted that it does not matter that the feature shown is unintended or unexplained in the specification. The drawings must be evaluated for what they reasonably disclose and suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. In re Aslanian, 590 F.2d 911, 200 USPQ 500 (CCPA 1979). See MPEP § 2121.04. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to interpret the drawing to identify the connection joint between the first or large radius and the pulley contacting surface is a small radius. Such small radius or round edge is well known in the art to reduce the sharp edges. See attached enlarged drawing figure illustrating the transition comprising a large radius and a smaller radius. The enlargement clearly shows the connection between the radius R1 (see fig. 4) and the

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contact surface 2b is a curved surface. Therefore, for reasons given above the rejection is deemed proper.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

November 08, 2007


Conferees:

Meredith Petravick

Thomas Hannon



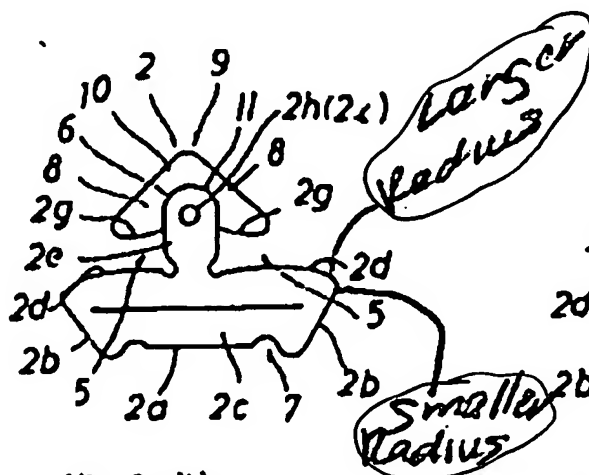
Respectfully submitted,


MARCUS CHARLES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

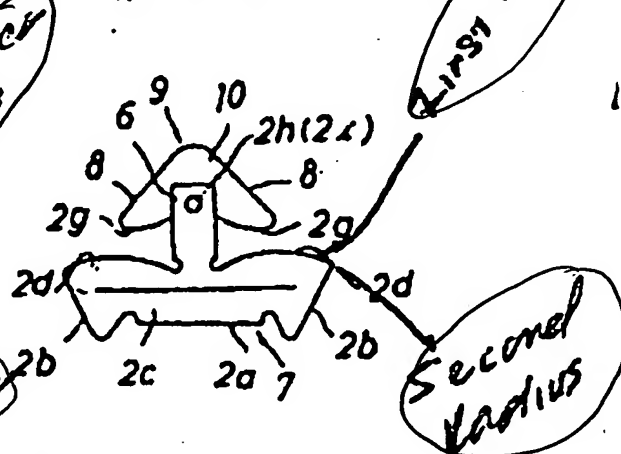
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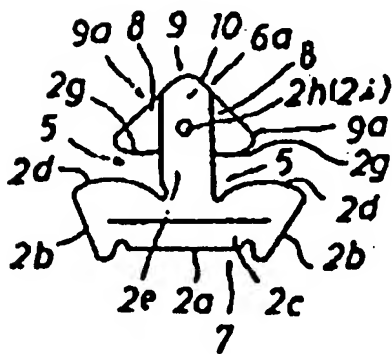
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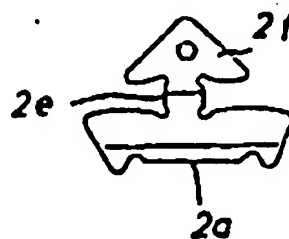
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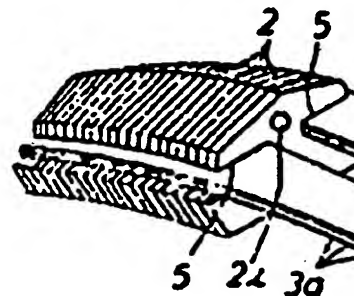
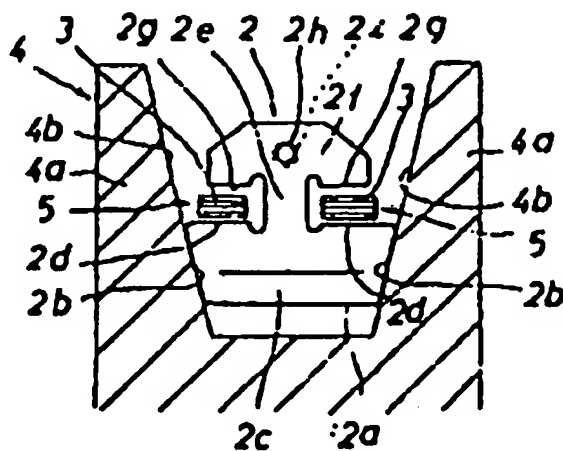
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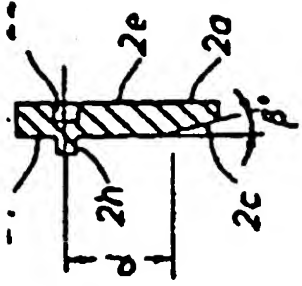
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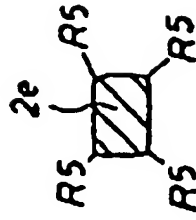
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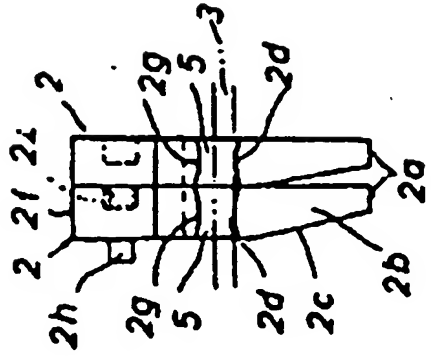
Enlarged copy of JP 63-280,946



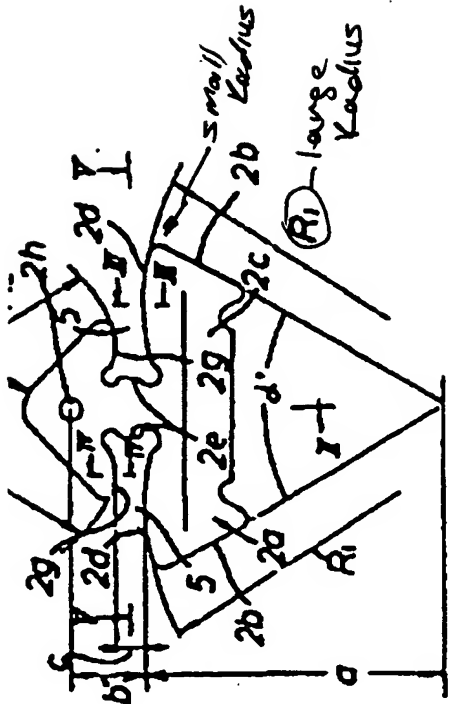
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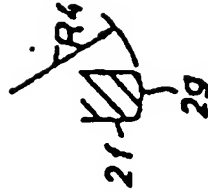
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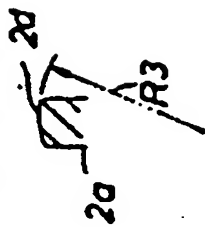
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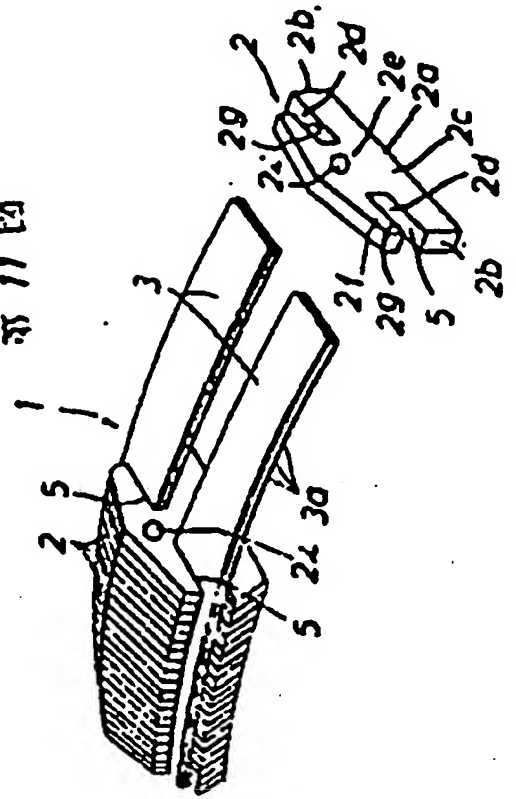
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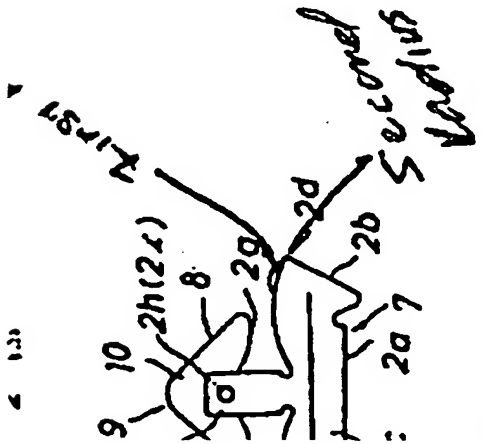
第 6 図



第 10 図



第 9 図



第 5 図